

## WHO IS THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MAN?

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This question deserves much thought and study, especially in view of the fact that man, because of sin, has alienated himself from God and is therefore in need of reconciliation, Isa. 59:1-2. Thus, we see the need of a mediator.

First, however, what is a mediator? Literally, a mediator is a go-between — one who stands equidistant from two sides or parties with a view to producing peace between both parties. Consequently, he must know the demands of one party and the needs of the other. Realizing that salvation demands peace between God and man, we therefore conclude that our mediator must possess the nature and attributes of God toward whom he acts, and yet be able to participate in the nature of man for whom He acts. In short, the mediator between God and man must have been possessed with the attributes of both deity and humanity in order to provide terms of reconciliation that would meet God's approval and man's possibilities.

But who could meet those requirements? Who was both God and man? In Bethlehem of Judea, in fulfillment of divine prophecy, a virgin conceived and brought forth a Son whose name was called Emmanuel which being interpreted means "God with us," Isa.7:14; Matt. 1:21-23. Thus, Jesus Who "thought it not robbery to be equal with God," Phil. 2:6, "was made flesh and dwelt among us," John 1:14. He was truly the Son of God "according to the spirit of holiness," Rom. 1:4, and the Son of Man after, or according to, the flesh. He alone possessed the qualifications to serve as the mediator between God and man.

So, it is not surprising to read: "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus; Who gave Himself for all to be testified in due time," I Tim. 2:5,6. Hence, Paul affirmed that Jesus is the "mediator between God and man." There is one God, one humanity, and one mediator by which the one humanity can approach the one true God. There is as much authority for contending for the existence of a plurality of Gods as there is in contending for a plurality of mediators!

Therefore, we cannot approach God through a priest, the pope, the virgin Mary, some saint, or some other party, for these do not possess the necessary qualifications to serve as our mediator, plus the fact that inspiration teaches the existence of only "one mediator" between "God and men, the Man Christ Jesus," I Tim. 2:5.

Furthermore, it should be pointed out that those who deny that Jesus was Emanuel, or "God with us," who ridicule His virgin birth, and who refuse to believe in His resurrection are guilty of ruining the most beautiful and appealing picture in all the Bible — that of a loving God sending His Son "in the likeness of sinful flesh," Rom. 8:3, that He might, through His death, make atonement for our sins, Rom. 5:11.

Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life," John 14:6. "Into" Him we must be baptized, Gal. 3:27, in His body, the church, we are to be reconciled, Eph. 2:16, and to Christ, "the captain of our salvation," Heb. 2:10, we are to be "faithful unto death," Rev. 2:10. In the words of the apostle Paul, we say "thanks to God for His indescribable gift," 2 Cor. 9:15, namely the "gift" of Jesus Christ, His "only begotten son," John 3:16, our Savior, Matt. 1:21, the "captain" of our salvation, Heb. 2:10, and the "author and finisher of our faith," Heb. 12:2! Yes, Jesus is the mediator between God and men. Let us therefore reject the creeds and

dogmas of men, look to the New Testament of which Jesus is “the mediator,” Heb. 9:15, and submit to Him our hearts and lives in genuine and sincere obedience.